PROPOSAL EVALUATION

Integrated Regional Water Management Implementation Proposition 50, Chapter 8
IRWM Implementation Step 1

PIN:	5756
APPLICANT NAME:	Yucaipa Valley Water District
PROJECT TITLE:	Yucaipa Valley Regional Water Supply Renewal
FUNDS REQUESTED:	$15,062,000
COST MATCH:	$29,238,000
TOTAL PROJECT COST:	$44,300,000

DESCRIPTION: The Proposal will help effectively eliminate mineral buildup in Watershed. Local, state and regional benefits include increased water supply reliability, groundwater protection and water quality improvements. With its treatment and brine disposal components, the project will allow SWP water to be treated to lower its salt content and used as a potable supply, nonpotable supply and, after recovery at a tertiary treatment plant, achieve basin standards for salt content. By placing treatment on the potable side of the system, greater salinity reduction benefits accrue and additional treatment options remain at the recycled water plant. Maintaining high quality water in the upper watershed protects water quality in the lower Santa Ana Watershed, and YVWD would achieve a zero-discharge status, providing the ultimate protection of downstream water resources.

Question: Consistency with Minimum IRWM Standards - This evaluation will focus on whether the applicant has demonstrated that the IRWM Plan meets the minimum standards.

Pass

Question: Consistency with IRWM Standards - Adopted IRWM Plan and Proof of Formal Adoption. Weighting factor is 1. 2

The IRWMP was adopted by San Timoteo Watershed Management Authority (STWMA) on June 28, 2005. However, the proof of adoption (Resolution No. 2005-04) is referenced but not provided with the IRWMP or application. After the EIR is completed, the IRWMP will be formally adopted by its member agencies, including the applicant, which will be by January 1, 2007.

Question: Consistency with IRWM Standards - Description of Region. Weighting factor is 1. 5

Region is San Timoteo watershed area that includes the applicant's and Beaumont-Cherry Valley WD (BCVWD) service areas, City of Beaumont, and other agencies. Watershed and water regime of region are discussed. The applicant's basis for the appropriateness of the region is that water supplies are extracted by local water retailers from the same groundwater basin (Beaumont Basin). Various discharges occur in the San Timoteo Creek (STC), a tributary to the Santa Ana River. Information is provided on the region's social and cultural makeup, water and environmental resources, water supply and demand, institutions and governance of water, project impediments and implications, and other water-related issues that substantiate IRWMP objectives, water management strategies, priorities, and projects. The accompanying maps and figures were provided as separate attachments rather than incorporated into the IRWMP.

Question: Consistency with IRWM Standards - Objectives. Weighting factor is 1. 5

IRWMP's flow of information demonstrated a well-prepared plan. The IRWMP identified 5 goals: 1) enhance basin water supplies, 2) protect water quality, 3) optimize management of groundwater basins, 4) protect riparian habitat in STC and protect/enhance habitat in STWMA-area; and 5) equitably distribute benefits/costs of IRWMP. Objectives were developed during the stakeholder process and reflect major regional water-related objectives by STWMA member agencies, STWMA commission members, and stakeholders. Potential impediments and implications between STWMA members, stakeholders, and the environment were provided in Table 5-1 along with actions to resolve them. The only water management strategy not considered was water conservation, because water conservation measures are already being implemented by individual members and other local agencies in region.

Question: Consistency with IRWM Standards - Water Management Strategies and Integration. Weighting factor is 1. 5

IRWMP describes water management strategies through eight program elements: develop comprehensive groundwater monitoring program, develop surface water/recharge management, develop regional supplemental water master plan, develop salt management, establish groundwater management entity, develop conjunctive use, develop habitat and recreation program, and develop financial plan to enable IRWMP. Projects within each of the program elements will improve water supply reliability, water quality protection/improvement, groundwater management, flood management, storm water management, water recycling, recreation and public access, and ecosystem restoration. IRWMP water supply goal is an additional 67,000 AF/Y.

Question: Consistency with IRWM Standards - Priorities and Schedule. Weighting factor is 1. 4

The applicant identifies short-, mid-, and long-term program elements and projects in Table 6-1. The highest priority IRWMP program elements are No. 2 (surface water/recharge management) and No. 3 (regional supplemental water master plan). The two priority projects selected to implement these IRWMP program elements are the Beaumont Cherry Valley WD project and the applicant's project, YVWD Water Supply Renewal Project. The applicant's project will implement program elements No. 3 (regional supplemental water master plan) and no. 6 (conjunctive use). The applicant discusses several scenarios in which project sequencing would be impacted by implementation responses. The applicant describes the priorities of the region, current status, and provides schedule for all IRWMP program elements and projects. This project is part of SAWPA but no discussion was found on the project priority within SAWPA.

Question: Consistency with IRWM Standards - Implementation. Weighting factor is 1. 4

Estimated capital costs for IRWMP implementation is $250 to $300 million. Action items, timelines, responsible entities, and current status are provided in the IRWMP for each program element and project. The applicant identifies linkages that exist between program elements and projects. The applicant states IRWMP goals are intended to be accomplished through implementation of multi-benefit projects that will lessen the cost of water. Economic and technical feasibility were minimally discussed in the IRWMP. IRWMP institutional structures are STWMA and the Beaumont Basin Watermaster. STWMA members have commitments to implement IRWMP projects and projects from the RWB's Santa Ana River Water Quality Control Plan (Basin Plan), but specific details on how the IRWMP relates to the Basin Plan were missing.

Question: Consistency with IRWM Standards - Impacts and Regional Benefits. Weighting factor is 1. 5

IRWMP discusses impacts and benefits under each program element and in Table 5-1. Benefits include improve water supply reliability, water quality improvement, groundwater, flood, storm water, recycling, recreation, and ecosystem restoration. Impacts include potential negative impacts of regulatory constraints, meeting demands with imported and recycled water, reducing discharges to STC and storm water diversions on habitats, in-stream flows need to support riparian vegetation, growth/sustainability issues raised by conservation groups, monitoring groundwater basin levels and production to develop safe yields, and institutional challenges.

Question: Consistency with IRWM Standards - Technical Analysis and Plan Performance. Weighting factor is 1. 3

IRWMP discusses methods and analyses that were used in selection of water management strategies or elements, but no details were provided. Data gaps, measures to evaluate performance, and monitoring systems were also discussed though not in detail.

Question: Consistency with IRWM Standards - Data Management. Weighting factor is 1. 4

Applicant discusses a relational database with a geographic interface for data management and how it will be provided to SAWPA and RWB for various data sharing efforts including GAMA. Data collection will support statewide data needs via monitoring efforts. Dissemination of information would be available to stakeholders and the general public after database tool is complete. However, the applicant does not provide details or discusses ongoing information dissemination.

Question: Consistency with IRWM Standards - Financing. Weighting factor is 1. 3

Financing of IRWMP implementation will largely come from STWMA and its members. Some member agencies have already pursued outside funding for projects and STWMA has been meeting with State and federal agencies on future funding opportunities for construction and investigations. Additional financing discussions under each program element and corresponding projects. These cost discussions were very brief and did not provide detail. There were also no discussions about on-going financing of projects for future operations and maintenance.

Question: Consistency with IRWM Standards - Relation to Local Planning & Sustainability. Weighting factor is 1. 4

IRWMP demonstrates coordination with local planning and management efforts to where the combined efforts will produce the maximum benefits for the regions. In addition, the IRWMP will help implement the RWB Basin Plan. Municipal water supply and demand projections, UWMPs, GWMPs, water master plans, historical data, STWMA Phase 1 report, and 2004 Basin Plan Update were reviewed for development of IRWMP. However, there was no mention of county general plans being considered or reviewed.

Question: Consistency with IRWM Standards - Stakeholder Involvement & Coordination. Weighting factor is 1. 5

STWMA members; local, State, federal agencies; organizations; and other stakeholders are listed and their relationships to the region's water supply, sewer, and recycling systems are explained. STWMA and partners have been active since 2001, a "Phase 1" report was completed in 2002, and the IRWMP is an update to that report. STWMA and the applicant worked with RWB to petition higher TDS and nitrogen standards in Basin Plan allowing direct use and recharge of recycled water without mitigation. Regulatory constraints regarding DHS requirements on recycled water for recharge and direct injection of recycled water are discussed.

Question: Funding Match. This evaluation will focus on whether the applicant has demonstrated the ability to meet the minimum funding match or has requested a waiver or reduction in the funding match.

Pass

Question: Description of Proposal. Weighting factor is 3. 12

The applicant needs to desalt recycled water prior to discharge or reuse to meet the TDS requirements of basin standards. Proposed project will construct a 5 MGD facility to treat SWP water and reuse recycled water produced in area for potable water supply and recharge. The applicant will construct a brine pipeline from the Regional Water Filtration Facility (RWFF) to Santa Ana Regional Interceptor. The proposal would also implement IRWMP program element No. 4. The project description provides minimal level of detail to show readiness and is not a work plan with tasks. The applicant discusses scientific basis, performance metrics, water quality, and source water protection. Environmental compliance plan is in place for brine line, but no environmental information was found for the treatment facility. Linkages and relationships IRWMP implementation were clear.

Question: Project Prioritization. Weighting factor is 2. 8

This is a one-project proposal that implements the highest-rated program elements of IRWMP. This project is ranked as top project in both the IRWMP and applicant's proposal. There were no other projects in the application to demonstrate how priority projects were selected.

Question: Cost Estimate. Weighting factor is 1. 5

Both IRWMP and application cost estimates are consistent with schedule and project description. Matching funds are 66%. Matching fund sources are from a federal grant and applicant's own funds. Project costs cover environmental compliance, planning/design, bid/construction of reverse osmosis facility, bid/construction of brine pipeline, and purchasing treatment capacity. Project administrative costs (0.11%), construction administrative costs (3.2%), and construction and implementation contingencies (10%) seem reasonable.

Question: Schedule. Weighting factor is 1. 5

Both IRWMP and schedule were consistent with cost estimate. Applicant demonstrated how related elements of the IRWMP will be completed on schedule.

Question: Need. Weighting factor is 2. 8

The applicant needs to desalinization recycled water prior to discharge or reuse to meet the TDS requirements of basin standards. The proposed project will help implement IRWMP program elements No. 3 and 6 to meet need. Applicant discussed general economic, environmental, and fiscal impacts but did not provide details.

Question: Disadvantaged Communities. Weighting factor is 2. 8

Applicant is not requesting waiver or reduction in funding match. Applicant identifies Calimesa and Beaumont as DACs representing 28% of the region's population. Applicant states that the proposed project and IRWMP implementation would provide direct benefits to DACs by improving water supply reliability, reducing imported water demand, and providing drought relief. However, applicant does not show how project provides direct benefit. Data and MHI numbers are provided but no DAC calculations are provided.

Question: Program Preferences. Weighting factor is 1. 4

Applicant's proposal meets most but not all program preferences. Applicant demonstrates integrated implementation and provide integrated multiple benefits. Applicant also states the proposed project meets groundwater management or recharge project preference of being located outside of the MWD service area and within San Bernardino or Riverside counties.

TOTAL SCORE: 99